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CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL of HONOR FOUNDATION

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December 16, 2009

Dear Governor Rell,

In 2007, Congress established March 25th as National Medal of Honor Day. On March 25, 2008, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, chartered by the Congress in 1958 and consisting exclusively of the living Medal of Honor recipients, chose this day to present *Citizen Service Above Self Honors* to three ordinary Americans who have gone above and beyond on behalf of their fellow man either through a single act of heroism involving risk of life or by demonstrating a profound long-term commitment to service before self.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society and the Medal of Honor Foundation is continuing this tribute to ordinary Americans who do extraordinary things. As such, we invite you to distribute a "Call for Nominations" for the *Citizen Service Above Self Honors* to your constituents and local media. A press release and nominations criteria are attached. Nominations may be submitted online at www.CitizenServiceAboveSelfHonors.org. **The deadline is February 12, 2009.**

All nominations will be considered and finalists will be selected and announced on Monday, March 9, 2009, from each state by a review board consisting of Medal of Honor recipients. Three finalists will be selected to receive the *Citizen Service Above Self Honors* at a ceremony at Arlington Cemetery in the shadow of the Tomb of the Unknowns at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, 2009. We will be happy to work with your office for presentation of a handsome framed certificate for your state finalist.

Citizen Service Above Self Honors was previously known as Above & Beyond Citizen Honors. Despite the slight name change to better reflect the award's intentions, the prestige, selection criteria and process, and support by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society have not altered.

We thank you for your interest and support, and for your commitment to our nation and the freedoms we all enjoy as Americans. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please call Kelly Dieter at 703-288-8684 or email at kdieter@hayespr.com.

Sincerely,

Leo Thorsness

Nicholas B. Kehoe

Leo K. Thorsness
President
Congressional Medal of Honor Society
Honor Foundation

Nicholas B. Kehoe
President
Congressional Medal of



Citizen Service Above Self Honors—Nominations Backgrounder

BACKGROUND. Every day in this country, ordinary Americans become extraordinary. It can happen in an instance of bravery or through a lifetime of placing others before themselves. These acts of courage and selflessness would inspire us all, if only we knew about them. Now, the time has come to stand up and celebrate, in our cities and in our towns, the selfless heroism that symbolizes the American spirit.

Every year on March 25, National Medal of Honor Day, three United States citizens will be awarded **Citizen Service Above Self Honors** in the shadow of the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery. They will receive this award from a group of Americans whose actions have defined the word courage – the members of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society who have received our nation’s highest and most prestigious award for valor, the Medal of Honor. The living Medal recipients of this exclusive Society now number fewer than 100.

CRITERIA

WHO CAN NOMINATE: Any American who is aware of a fellow citizen, neighbor, co-worker, or ordinary American, a hero among us, who without the expectation of fame or reward, has placed others before self in some extraordinary way.

WHO CAN BE NOMINATED: Any United States civilian who through a singular act of extraordinary heroism or through a prolonged series of acts, clearly demonstrated a willingness to place his or her own life at risk for others. In all cases the actions being honored must epitomize the concept of “service above self” and must be performed “above and beyond” one’s professional or vocational area of responsibility or conduct. Please note: nominees who are deceased are fully eligible. A singular act of heroism must have occurred within the last three years. A series of acts of long-term selfless service must have been ongoing within the last three years.

DEADLINE: Nominations must be received by **Friday, February 12, 2010.**

SELECTION PROCESS

A panel, to include Medal of Honor recipient representation, will consider all nominations and select national finalists. From among those finalists, a second panel of Medal of Honor recipients will select three individuals to receive Citizen Service Above Self Honors at a ceremony on Thursday, March 25, 2010 to be held in the shadow of the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery in Arlington, VA.

<u>TIMELINE</u>	
Open nominations	December 14, 2009
Close nominations	February 12, 2010
Finalists announcement	March 9, 2010
Recipients announcement	March 22, 2010
Recipients honored	March 25, 2010